

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on January 13, 2006, the Examiner has objected Claims 2-4, 18-22, and 24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and has indicated that these nine claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, we amended Claims 2, 3, and 4 as independent claims by incorporating all the limitations from Claim 1, the only claim which Claims 2, 3, and 4 previously depend from. Furthermore, we amended Claims 5, 6, 7, and 8 to depend upon allowable claims 2. We also added four new claims 40, 41, 42, and 43, all dependent upon allowable claim 3 and four additional claims 44, 45, 46, and 47, all dependent upon allowable claim 4. Rejected claim 1 was cancelled since its subject matter have appeared in Claims 2, 3, and 4, respectively. It is believed that this amendment deals with all grounds of the Examiner's objections and rejections that Claim 2, 3, 4 should now be in order for allowance, as should their dependent claims 5 to 8, 40 to 43, and 44 to 47.

In addition, we also amended Claims 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24 as independent claims by incorporating all the limitations from Claim 17, which Claims 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24 depend from. We also amended Claim 23 to depend upon allowable claims 18 and added four new claims 48, 49, 50, and 51, dependent upon claims 19, 20, 21, and 22, respectively. It is believed that this amendment deals with all grounds of the Examiner's objections and rejections that Claim 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24 should now be in order for allowance, as should their dependent claims 23, and 48-51.

In the Office Action dated January 13, 2006, the Examiner has raised three different 35 USC 102(b) rejections against Claim 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, and 23 as being anticipated by Percec ("Molecular design of novel liquid crystalline polymers with complex architecture: Macrocyclics and dendrimers" *Pure & Appl. Chem.* 67(12):2031-2038, 1996), Clark (*Physical Review E*. 64:1-6), and Wutz ("Conformation of spacers in smectic poly(ester imide)s" *Institut fur Techishce und Makromolekulare Chemie*, Universitat Hamburg, Bundesstrasse 45, D-20146 Hamburg, Germany, 1998). In view of the current amended Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 23 and cancellation of Claim 1, the rejections against these claims are mooted.

Percec discloses a bisphenyl having a biphenyl group linked to a phenyl group via ethyl

substituted ethylene linker, wherein one hydroxyl is attached to the para position of the terminal phenyl ring of the biphenyl group and the other is attached to the para position of the phenyl group. Percec also discloses the application of these monomeric units for making liquid crystalline polymers via alkylation of the hydroxyl groups to form ether bonds in between.

Clark discloses a dialkoxy molecule having a biphenyl group linked to a phenyl group via ethyl substituted ethylene linker as well, wherein one alkoxy group is attached to the para position of the terminal phenyl ring of the biphenyl group and the other is attached to the para position of the phenyl group. Similar to Percec, Clark also discloses the application of these monomeric units for making polymers via O-alkylation to form ether bonds in between.

Wutz discloses a series of compounds which contain trimellitimide or phthamimide. However, none of the compounds disclosed by Wutz have a biphenyl unit in their structures. As such, this rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration and reversal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The further two structures (CRN 16696-65-4 and CRN 4101-68-2) cited by the Examiner in the Office Action are similar to those disclosed in Percec, which have a biphenyl group linked to a phenyl group via either methyl or ethyl substituted ethylene linker, wherein one hydroxyl is attached to the para position of the terminal phenyl ring of the biphenyl group and the other is attached to the para position of the phenyl group.

The applicant also amended Claim 17 to be distinguishable from Percec, Clark, the two structures (CRN 16696-65-4 and CRN 4101-68-2) by incorporating the limitation to exclude an ether group from the end group Y in the amended Claim 17. The applicant believe that the amended claim 17 is now in order for allowance.

The applicant added one new independent claim 52 and its dependent claim 53. The supporting language for these two new claims can be found on line 19, page 6 and through the examples in the originally filed application.

Appl. No. 10/692,970
Amdt. dated April 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2006

SUMMARY

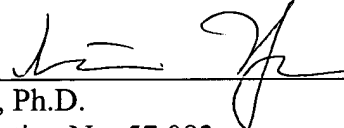
It is believed that the foregoing amendment and argument deals with all grounds of objections and rejections, and that all of the claims remaining in this application are in order for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues. He is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned representative for the applicant at (619) 696-6700 or at lyu@gordonrees.com.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1990 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 11, 2006

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